

teaching of Regional languages from classes IV to VIII provided that there are 20 or more students willing to study the language.

Buddhist Educational Institutes

2260. SHRI R.N. ARYA: will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the accurate number of Buddhist Educational Institutes in India, State-wise;
- (b) the position of staff according to minority character; and
- (c) whether there is any proposal to start Gautam Buddha University in G.B. Nagar, Noida, where the building was already constructed in 1997 by the U.P. Government?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The information with regard to Buddhist Educational Institutes of different states is not centrally maintained. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has also informed that they do not maintain such information.

(c) As per the information provided by the U.P. Government, State Govt. has not taken any decision to establish Gautam Buddha University at Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida. The State Government has also not constructed any building for the purpose in the year 1997.

Widows in Ashram

2261. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Indian Express dated 10th June, 2000 under the caption "Four girls are salvation for Vrindavan's widows";
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) whether Government propose to make any permanent

arrangement to take care of a decent cremation and funeral rites of widows who die in Ashrams; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) the Government of Uttar Pradesh, who are directly concerned with it have to take appropriate action in problems relating to cremation of such women. Government of India has constitute a Central Committee in June, 1999 to coordinate all such efforts including rehabilitation of marginalized women of Vrindavan in which the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, concerned Central Ministries and NGOs are represented. Based on the decision and recommendations of the Committee, further action is being taken to rehabilitate these women and to work out a solution to their problems, including shelter, vocation, health needs etc.

Government withdrawal from University Education

2262. SHRI K.M. KHAN: will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to withdraw from University education;

(b) if so, what could be the fate of University teachers, including their service conditions;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the World Bank has recommended to Government to withdraw from University Education; and

(d) if so, what are the salient features of the World Bank recommendations with regard to University Education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir. The outlays for higher education including University education have been significantly stepped up during the Ninth Plan.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

(c) No, Sir.